

Application No. 10/024,242

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1 - 21 stand rejected.

Claim Objections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 – 7, 12 – 17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Denen et al. (US No. 5,400,267) ("Denen"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In claim 1, Applicant recites an aberrant component detection method. The method includes storing, in a computer memory, a reference current indicative of proper functioning of a particular component, sensing current supplied to a group of components including the particular component, comparing the current supplied to the group of components to the reference current, and recording a result of comparing the current to the reference current.

In claim 12, Applicant recites an aberrant component detection method. The method includes recording a result of comparing a sensed current to a reference current, the sensed current being supplied to a group of components including the particular component, the reference current being indicative of proper functioning of a particular component and being stored in a computer memory.

In claim 19, Applicant recites an aberrant component detection method. The method includes storing, in a computer memory, a reference current indicative of proper functioning of a particular component, sensing current supplied to a group of components including the particular component while only the particular component draws current, comparing the current supplied to the group of components to the reference current, and recording a result of comparing the current to the reference current, wherein recording a result comprises at least one of storing the result in a computer memory, displaying an alert when there is a

Application No. 10/024,242

discrepancy between the reference current and the current supplied to the group of components, and recording a circuit to which current was supplied during sensing.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claims 1, 12, and 19 under 35 USC § 102. To sustain a rejection under 35 USC § 102, the Examiner must show that the cited reference discloses each and every limitation of the claim. Applicants recite recording a result of comparing a sensed current to a reference current in each of claims 1, 12, and 19. For this limitation, the Examiner references column 10, lines 11-15 of Denen. This passage appears to refer to writing a fault status flag to memory. However, a fault status flag is akin to a warning light. It is not the same as the result of comparing the sensed current and the reference current. Recording a fault status flag is an action that's taken if a certain result is obtained. Applicant's recited limitation is to record the actual result of the comparison between the sensed current and the reference current, which is indicative of proper functioning, regardless of whether a fault occurs or not.

Further, the Examiner has not shown that Denen discloses a reference current indicative of proper functioning. The passage cited by the Examiner discloses parametric data that could include voltage or current limits, but there is nothing about storing a reference current indicative of proper functioning.

Claims 2 – 7, 13 – 17, and 21 all depend from and include all the limitations of claims 1, 12, and 19 respectively and therefore, should be allowed if the underlying base claims are allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 8 – 11, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denen in view of Motoyama (US No. 5,887,216) ("Motoyama"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 8 – 11 depend from claim 1, claim 18 depends from claim 12, and claim 20 depends from claim 19. Applicant argued that Denen did not disclose all the limitations of claims 1, 12, and 19 in response to the rejection to these claims under 35 USC § 102 because the Examiner did not identify every limitation present in these claims. The

Application No. 10/024,242

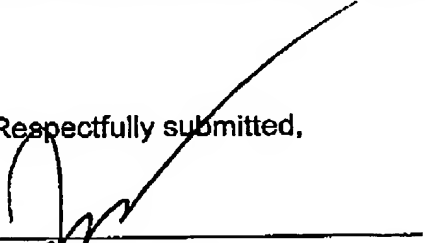
Examiner has also not identified these missing limitations in Motoyama. Therefore, claims 8 - 11, 18, and 20 should be allowed if claims 1, 12, and 19 are allowed as claims 8 - 11, 18, and 20 depend from claims 1, 12, and 19.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Young
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,248
Telephone (503) 685-4229

JMY/rjc